

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly replace paragraph [0037] beginning on page 10 with the following paragraph.

c1 [0037] The pawl 42 functions for selectively holding between the engaging condition in which the latch 41 engages with the striker 45 and the disengaging condition in which the latch 41 disengages from the striker 45. When the pawl 42 is rotated against the spring force of the torsion spring 44, the pawl 42 is moved away from the latch portion 41c of the latch 41. The pawl 42 then changes to the disengaging condition between the latch 41 and the striker 45 from the engaging condition between the latch 41 and the striker 45. As illustrated in Fig. 7, the electric driving source 25 is positioned in the upper portion of the housing. More specifically, as shown in Fig. 7, the electric driving source 25 is located above the engaging pin 27b of the active lever 27, and the engaging pin 27b is positioned relative to the supporting pin 41a of the latch 41 in the manner shown in Fig. 4. Further, as shown in Fig. 3, the supporting pin 41a is positioned above the insertion groove 16a into which the striker 45 is movable to be received by a portion of the latch mechanism to latch the vehicle door to the vehicle body. Thus, the entire electric driving source 25 is positioned above the insertion groove 16a.